(b) The main reasons for low capacity utilisation in some of the public sector plants are design deficiencies, the ageing of the plants, power problems, equipment, breakdowns, coal based technology being tried for the first tine in the country, shortage of raw materials in the case of some units and labour problems.

(c) Some of the steps taken/being taken are:—

(i) captive power plants have been set up in all the units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and the Talcher unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(ii) assistance is being provided in arranging for essential inputs;

(iii) Replacement/renewal of equipments;

(iv) Constant monitoring by preventive and predictive maintenance;

(v) Training of operators and technicians.

Meeting of Board of Directors of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

3772. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Directors of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation evolved new manning set-up for the company excluding its Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation minus Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division has been referred to BIFR; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Board of Directors of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited have approved a new manning set-up for the Company, in which the Marketing and Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research activities have been merged.

(b) and (c) In terms of Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC), which is a sick company, has to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

The Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division is part of HFC.

Loan Licence System

3773. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reintroduce the 'Loan Licence System' for the manufacture of drugs; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and if not the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) This relates to the Ministry of Health. The required information to the extent available will be collected from the Ministry of Health and F.W. and laid on the Table of the House.

Voluntary Retirement Plan for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India

3774. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement the voluntary retirement scheme in respect of the two sick public sector units namely The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the rein the position of different units located at various places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) have introduced the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Voluntary Retirement Scheme in their units.

(b) The numbers of employees who have taken voluntary retirement since the introduction of BPE's Voluntary Retire-

ment Scheme in the various units of FCI and HFC are given below:—

Units/Division/Office	Number of employees who have taken voluntary retirement
1. Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI)	
(i) Sindri Unit	93
(ii) Ramagundam Unit	25
(iii) Talcher Unit	23
(iv) Gorakhpur Unit	133
(v) Marketing Division	18
(vi) Korba Division	7
(vii) Jodhpur	19
(viii) Central Office	66
TOTAL	384
2. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC)	
(i) Barauni Unit	129
(ii) Durgapur Unit	128
(iii) Namrup Unit	179
(iv) Haldia Division	145
(v) Marketing Division	133
(vi) Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division	244
(vii) Calcutta Purchase Office	27
(viii) Corporate Office	39
TOTAL	1024

Study for Drug Industry

3775. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1337 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after 1970-71 no study of the break-even mark-up has been carried out by Government;

(b) why such a study is not being got conducted so as to know the real position of the drug industry;

(c) whether it is a fact that sandwitched between the issue of mark-up and trade commission, Government are ignoring the interests of common man; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) Mark-up is provided to cover post manufacturing expenses over and above the ex-factory cost of production of a formulation, incurred by the manufacturer including trade commission and his profit margin. In determination of reasonable level of mark-up the situation prevailing in the industry and pharmaceutical market are taken into account while formulating the pricing policy from time to time. This is done with the objective of ensuring availability to consumers at reasonable prices and at the same time not making manufacture of medicines an unattractive proposition.

Permitting equity to foreign pharmaceutical companies

3776. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit 51 per cent equity to foreign pharmaceutical companies ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) The Drug Policy does not prescribe any limits on the